

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-second Legislature First Regular Session - 2013

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1006

BY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION BOARD; AMENDING SECTION 40-310, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT ABANDONMENT SHALL PROCEED PURSUANT TO LAW AND TO REMOVE LANGUAGE RELATING TO CERTAIN POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD AS THEY RELATE TO A BOARD DECISION TO ABANDON, RELOCATE OR REPLACE CERTAIN HIGHWAYS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 40-310, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

40-310. POWERS AND DUTIES -- STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM. The board shall:
(1) Determine which highways in the state, or sections of highways, shall be designated and accepted for the purpose of this title as a part of the state highway system.

(a) In determining which highways or section of highways shall be a part of the state highway system, the board shall consider the relative importance of each highway to cities, existing business, industry and enterprises and to the development of cities, natural resources, industry and agriculture and be guided by statistics on existing and projected traffic volumes. The board shall also consider the safety and convenience of highway users, the common welfare of the people of the state, and of the cities within the state and the financial capacity of the state of Idaho to acquire rights-of-way and to construct, reconstruct and maintain state highways. In making a determination, the board must, before it can abandon, relocate, or replace by a new highway, any highway serving or traversing any city, or the area in which the city is located, specifically find and determine that the benefits to the state of Idaho are greater than the economic loss and damage to the city affected. No highway serving or traversing any city shall be abandoned, relocated or replaced by a new highway serving the area in which a city is located without the board first holding a public hearing in that city. The abandonment shall proceed as set forth in section 40-203B, Idaho Code. ~~Written notice setting forth the action proposed to be taken by the board shall be served upon the mayor of any city affected, and upon all property owners from which acquisition of right-of-way is necessary and from which that property must be purchased, by certified or registered mail, and shall also be published in at least one (1) issue of a newspaper published and of general circulation in each city affected. If there is no newspaper published in the city, then a notice shall be posted in three (3) of the most public places in the city. The notice shall contain a statement of any action contemplated by the board affecting the city or property owner, and shall specify the time and place of the hearing. At the hearing a~~

property owner from which right-of-way is necessary to be acquired and from which that property must be purchased, and the governing body of any city affected may appear, voice objections to the action proposed to be taken by the board, and may present evidence and call witnesses in support of their objections. The board shall give consideration to the protests and objections and make a written decision determining whether or not the proposed action would be of greater benefit to the state of Idaho than the economic loss and damage resulting to the city. The board shall serve a written decision upon the governing body of any affected city and property owners within ten (10) days following the completion of the hearing, and no action shall be taken by the board prior to the service of the written decision.

(b) Within ten (10) days after the written decision has been served, an appeal may be taken from the decision by the person from whom the property must be purchased, the interested city, board of county commissioners, or highway district commissioners to the district court in and for the county in which the city affected by the order is located. The appeal shall be taken and perfected in the following manner:

1. The appellant shall file with the clerk of the district court of the proper county, and serve upon the board, notice specifying the grounds of appeal, and a certified copy of the decision of the board appealed from. The district court shall then have jurisdiction of the matter and may make any order or judgment that the equities of the case require. Upon the appeal being perfected, the appeal shall receive a preferential place on the calendar of the district court.

2. The appeal shall be heard and determined by the district court in a summary manner as in a suit in equity, and the trial shall be a trial de novo on the issues framed. The court may affirm, reverse, or modify the order appealed from and may issue injunctions whenever it appears necessary for the protection of the interests of any party to the appeal.

3. No bond or undertaking shall be required of any party appealing under any of the provisions of this section.

4. The filing fees required in the district court shall be the same as is provided for filing cases originally in the court.

(c) Any final order or judgment of the district court under this subsection shall be appealable to the supreme court of the state of Idaho within thirty (30) days following the entry of the final order or judgment in the same manner as appeals in civil actions are taken to the supreme court.

(d) The board shall take no action on any matter affecting any property owner from which right-of-way is necessary to be acquired or any city until either:

1. The time has elapsed for an appeal to the district court and no appeal has been filed; or

2. If an appeal has been taken to the district court, then until the time for appeal from its final order or judgment to the supreme court has elapsed and no appeal has been taken; or

~~3. If an appeal has been taken to the supreme court, then until the matter has been finally determined by that court.~~

(2) The board shall cause to be prepared and publicly displayed in a conspicuous place in their offices a complete map of the state highway system in which each section shall be identified by location, length and a control number. The map shall be of a suitable size and scale and contain data and information as deemed appropriate by the board. Periodically, and not less than once each year, the board shall revise and correct the map to record the changes in the designated state highway system resulting from additions, abandonments and relocations. Hand maps of the state highway system shall be issued periodically for public distribution.

(3) Abandon the maintenance of any highway and remove it from the state highway system, when that action is determined by the unanimous consent of the board to be in the public interest.

(4) Locate, design, construct, reconstruct, alter, extend, repair and maintain state highways, and plan, design and develop statewide transportation systems when determined by the board to be in the public interest.

(5) Establish standards for the location, design, construction, reconstruction, alteration, extension, repair and maintenance of state highways, provided that standards of state highways through local highway jurisdictions shall be coordinated with the standards in use for the systems of the respective local highway jurisdictions. The board shall make agreements with local highway jurisdictions having within their limits state highway sections in the category described in section 40-502, Idaho Code, and provide for an equitable division of the maintenance of those sections. The board may also, in the interest of economy and efficiency, arrange to have any or all of the state highway sections within local highway jurisdictions maintained by those local highway jurisdictions, the cost of the work as limited by section 40-502, Idaho Code, to be reimbursed by the state.

(6) Cause to be made and kept, surveys, studies, maps, plans, specifications and estimates for the alteration, extension, repair and maintenance of state highways, and so far as practicable, of all highways in the state, and for that purpose to demand and to receive reports and copies of records from county commissioners, commissioners of highway districts, county engineers and directors of highways and all other highway officials within the state.

(7) Approve and determine the final plans, specifications and estimates for state highways and cause contracts for state highway work to be let by contract in the manner provided by law.

(8) Expend funds appropriated for construction, maintenance and improvement of state highways.

(9) Designate state highways, or parts of them, as controlled-access facilities and regulate, restrict or prohibit access to those highways to serve the traffic for which the facility is intended.

(10) Close or restrict the use of any state highway whenever the closing or restricting of use is deemed by the board to be necessary for the protection of the public or for the protection of the highway or any section from damage.

(11) Designate main traveled state highways as through highways. The traffic on through highways shall have the right-of-way over the traffic on

1 any other highway intersecting with it, provided, that at the intersection
2 of two (2) through highways the board shall determine which traffic shall
3 have the right-of-way.

4 (12) Furnish, erect and maintain standard signs on side highways di-
5 recting drivers of vehicles approaching a designated through highway to come
6 to a full stop before entering or crossing the through highway.

7 (13) Provide a right-of-way for and supervise the construction of side
8 paths or sidewalks along regularly designated state highways outside the
9 boundaries of incorporated cities and the expenditures for the construction
10 of them may be made from the highway funds of the county or highway districts.

11 (14) Upon certification and requisition of an appropriate board, com-
12 mission, governing body, or official head of any state institution and on the
13 approval of the governor, showing the same to be necessary, construct, al-
14 ter, repair, and maintain the roadways in, through, and about the grounds of
15 state institutions. The construction, alteration, repair and maintenance
16 shall be accomplished and paid for from the state highway account in accor-
17 dance with the provisions of chapter 7, title 40, Idaho Code. This provision
18 shall not be construed to divest any board, commission, governing body, or
19 official head of an institution their constitutional or statutory powers.